

# Larry Gambles for His Life

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DOWNIEVILLE, Calif.

March 8 — He had charmed, thrilled and coned his lady friends with many phony yarns about his death-cheating exploits.

But today, it was finally for real. Larry Lord Motherwell prepared to take the witness stand in the gamble to save his life.

He desperately hoped to convince a back country murder trial jury he left Mrs. Pearl Putney alive and smiling in the desert oasis of Las Vegas, Nev.—not cold and dead under a fir log in the lonely mountains near here.

## WILL AMPLIFY

This man with a past so well camouflaged even the FBI can't say when or where he was born, was ready to amplify what his own attorney told the court yesterday:

- That "it has been proved without a doubt he had told many lies."

- That he "has trifled with the hearts of frustrated women and has been far from faithful to his wife."

- That he "has masqueraded in many guises" as he played out his love games for kicks and money.

- But in all his knavery "there has 'not been one iota of violence" because, despite his blood-chilling fictioned stories of heroism he abhors rough stuff.

- For justice to be served the jury must believe he is, at last, telling the truth when he says the state is mistaken in charging him with the cold-hearted murder of his dear friend, Mrs. Pearl Putney of Washington.

## OWN DECISION

By going on the stand, Motherwell (who says he will be 42 Thursday), was laying himself open to merciless,



MOTHERWELL

searching cross examination by his prosecutors.

Defense attorneys John T. Reges of Washington and Robert Fugazi of Truckee, Calif., debated several days whether to put Larry on the stand. Finally, Motherwell made his own decision to testify.

Only one other witness will be called by the defense—Castro Dabrohua, brother of Mrs. Putney. He has already testified as a prosecution witness.

One of the people's final witnesses yesterday was Dr. Roy L. Sexton of Washington. He testified he examined Mrs.

Putney in 1957 and found her in excellent health.

This apparently was intended to forestall any claim Mrs. Putney might have died of natural causes during or shortly after a transcontinental motor romance with Motherwell in mid-1958.

## SYMPATHY

Before the doctor testified, spectators in the packed little courtroom for the second time clenched hands in sympathy as a distraught unmarried woman told how she'd swallowed Motherwell's hokum and promises of marriage only to find disillusionment and grief.

Attractive soft-voiced Miss Marie Colley, 32, of Roanoke, Va., said she met Larry when she was working in 1957 for the telephone company in Washington as was his third and present wife Josephine.

"Yes, I knew he was married," she said, "but he said he planned to get a divorce and marry me."

Eyes averted from the jury, she said they went to Miami together and got an apartment. As he told others, Larry informed Marie he had a dangerous and secret Government job and "had to be protected 24 hours a day" by an unobtrusive bodyguard nicknamed "The Dagger."

## THREE WEEKS

"Once, he went away for three weeks," Miss Colley said. "I received a telegram that he had died and his ashes had been spread over the Everglades. It was signed 'The Dagger.'"

Larry came back, tho, a few days later and explained that the message was an error. It was his twin brother who had been killed.

Eventually the pair continued what has become known as "the Motherwell tour" across the southern U. S. to California. Larry was going to get a divorce in Reno, Miss Colley said, but something prevented it—she didn't elaborate—and they returned to Washington.

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